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ITALY.

Quarantine measures against the plague.

EMBASSY OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY,
Washington, D. C., June 18, 1899.

Mr. SECRETARY OF STATE: Referring to the note of this royal embassy of the 13th instant, I have the honor to communicate to your excellency the following telegram which I have received from the royal ministry of the interior:

By an order, bearing date of June 16, it has been directed that the maritime sanitary operations prescribed in the maritime sanitary ordinances now in force for vessels and goods that have been declared to be infected with the bubonic plague, must be exclusively performed in the ports of Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Nisida, Palermo, Messina, Brindisi, and Venice.

Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurances of my highest consideration.

G. C. VINCI,
Royal Chargé d'Affaires of Italy.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

MALTA.

Quarantine restrictions against the plague.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Malta, Valletta, June 2, 1899.

SIR: In view of the cases of plague now existing in Egypt I have the honor to offer the following suggestions and information, which, I believe, will be of service to our Government:

A few days ago the board of health of Malta met and, on account of the conditions above stated, revised the then existing quarantine laws so as to practically shut out vessels coming from dangerous ports under certain conditions.

A copy of the new laws I inclose in duplicate.

I understand that Admiral Dewey will in a few days leave Hongkong for home by way of the Suez Canal, and also that he desires to stop at Malta and Gibraltar. If so, I anticipate that information as to the requirements at ports so far ahead as Malta and Gibraltar will be of service to him, to the end that he may shape his course so as to meet with no obstructions here in the way of quarantine laws. For this reason I have been in consultation with the authorities at this port, for the purpose of finding out under what conditions the *Olympia* will be given free pratique, should she arrive here.

I am informed that the safest course for Admiral Dewey to pursue is to stop at Singapore, and get from there a clean bill of health. That given him at Hongkong will probably be a foul one, as there is plague there. Should he desire to stop at Colombo, it would be best for him to inquire previous to entering that port, if everything is all right and if a clean bill of health would be given him upon his departure. The next port, Aden, stopped at and enough coal taken on board to last the ship to Malta. Under present conditions free communication may be had with the shore at this port. Leaving Aden, the *Olympia* should go direct through the canal, in quarantine, without holding any communication whatever with Suez, Ismalia, or Port Said. The clean bill of

health from Singapore would suffice for Malta under the above conditions as against Hongkong, and those from Colombo and Aden would be of service.

Should Admiral Dewey stop at any of the prohibited ports he would find it difficult to enter here, except for coal, and I think he would find the requirements at Gibraltar even worse. I am informed that all European ports in the Mediterranean have stringently quarantined against Egyptian ports.

I would suggest that if any mail has been sent to Port Said or Suez to await the arrival of the ship, it be sent at once to Aden, so that not even communication to the extent of receiving it at the two former ports be held. I am sending by mail to-day 2 dispatches of similar tenor, addressed to Admiral Dewey at Colombo and Aden, inclosing copies of the quarantine laws at Malta, and providing the information which I have received from the authorities here, as per above. Should Admiral Dewey be admitted at Malta to free pratique, I do not think he will have any trouble at Gibraltar or any other European port. I am ignorant as to the probable date of arrival here of the *Olympia*, and would esteem it a favor if the Department would notify me at the earliest opportunity. It might be well for our Government to cable Admiral Dewey, so as to forewarn him, as he will not probably receive either of my dispatches until long after this reaches Washington.

I trust the Department will not consider me as meddling in this matter for, after due consideration, I have come to the conclusion that if what I have above written is of assistance to the Government, I have only done what I am here for, while if to the contrary, no harm has been done. In view of the above I have decided not to take the leave of absence, which I have just been granted, but to defer my departure for home until after the *Olympia* has arrived at Malta and departed or passed by, to the end that I may be here to give all the assistance I can should there be any need for my services.

I have arranged with the chief secretary to Government to call upon him as soon as the *Olympia* is sighted so that special directions may be given the boarding officers.

I am, sir, your obedient servant, JOHN H. GROUT, JR.,
United States Consul.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[Inclosure.]

New quarantine laws at Malta.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

His excellency the governor, having heard the opinion of the board of health, has been pleased to modify Government Notice No. 154 of May 23, 1899, and to direct that the following regulations be observed, viz:

(1) VESSELS WHICH ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE HARBOR, BUT ARE ALLOWED TO COMMUNICATE IN QUARANTINE WITH THE ISLANDS OF COMINO AND COMINOTTO UNDER SUCH RESTRICTIONS AS THE COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS MAY DIRECT.

(a) Vessels that have on board, or have had during the voyage, cases of cholera, yellow fever, or plague or cases of a disease with symptoms resembling those of cholera, yellow fever, or plague.

(b) Vessels with pilgrims from the East.

(c) Vessels arriving from Arabian ports in the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf which have not been admitted to free pratique at Suez and Port Said.

(2) VESSELS WHICH ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE QUARANTINE HARBOR TO COAL AND TAKE IN PROVISIONS UNDER QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS.

(a) Vessels arriving from Indian ports without a clean bill of health which have not been admitted to free pratique in a port in the Adriatic or Mediterranean Sea, or which have not, to the satisfaction of the chief Government medical officer, been thoroughly disinfected before being admitted to free pratique at the said port.

(b) Vessels arriving from any port without a clean bill of health, which do not fall under any of the preceding regulations.

(c) *Vessels arriving from Egyptian ports.*

(3) MEDICAL INSPECTION.

All vessels arriving at Malta shall undergo strict medical inspection.

(4) PASSENGERS.

(a) Passengers arriving from Bombay, Kurrachee, and passengers from Calcutta, on board vessels that do not carry a doctor, shall be landed in one of the quarantine establishments where they will be subjected to strict medical inspection until their clothing and all other articles of personal use likely to retain infection shall have been thoroughly disinfected.

(b) Passengers arriving from Calcutta on board vessels that carry a doctor, and that have been admitted to free pratique at Suez, shall be permitted to land; but no luggage shall be landed before it is disinfected in one of the quarantine establishments.

(c) *Every passenger or other person arriving at Malta shall, before being allowed to land, declare on oath before an inspector of marine police or other superior officer that he has not been in Egypt within twenty-one days; whenever such person does not make this declaration on oath, he shall undergo twenty-one days quarantine on the ship.*

(5) GOODS.

The importation of coffee, beans or ground, colored with substances injurious to health is prohibited.

The importation of cotton seed from any port subject to quarantine is forbidden.

The importation of rags is prohibited.

The importation is forbidden before disinfection, of the following articles, viz, wearing apparel, soiled linen, and clothing, bedding materials, feathers, bones, and jute goods.

The importation of hides from any port subject to quarantine or from any place where cattle disease exists, is prohibited before disinfection.

The importation of vines, vine shoots and fruit packed in vine leaves, is prohibited. The importation of plants, or roots from any port of the Mediterranean is prohibited unless the same are accompanied by a satisfactory certificate that phylloxera is not known to exist at the place of origin.

By command.

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

PALACE, VALLETTA, *May 30, 1899.*

MEXICO.

Matamoras quarantines against Vera Cruz.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
Matamoras, Mexico, June 7, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department of State that the sanitary board of Matamoras has to day established a strict quarantine and will from now on take every precaution to prevent anyone entering the city who has been exposed to yellow fever in Vera Cruz, Tampico, or any infected district. Furthermore, that the doctors in charge, whenever they consider it advisable, will fumigate and disinfect all baggage.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

P. MERRILL GRIFFITH,
United States Consul.

The honorable the ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.